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Dean's View

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Dean's View

Abstract

Dean of University of the Incarnate Word-Rosenberg School of Optometry shares insight.

Keywords

peer review, Covid-19, evidence-based

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Dean, University of the Incarnate Word - Rosenberg School of Optometry

In the past months we have seen examples of why a refereed journal is an important resource for any healthcare practitioner. As COVID-19 occupied the lead stories in the news for months, it was apparent that credible information about it was crucial. Unfortunately, what was often reported was sensational and designed to garner ratings as much as to inform. At times it was difficult to tell which was considered more important.

A refereed journal allows for careful consideration of what is being published by a group of peers. The process allows for dispassionate thinking and evaluation of what is presented to ensure it is valid. While it may not always be exciting, it is (nearly) always credible. Discussions that ensue during that process move patient care in a positive direction. As *Optometric Clinical Practice* enters its third year of publication, we are proud of the discussions that have resulted due to articles that have been published herein. Just as there will always be a virus that mutates and results in new health concerns, health care professions will always need to adapt to address new concerns and apply new information in an appropriate way. That new information needs to be first vetted by experts and then widely disseminated. Publications in the professional press facilitate that and allow others to learn from the experience of the authors. They allow us to apply lessons learned in this pandemic, for example, and to be better prepared for the next one.

These peer reviewed publications also remind us that our profession is in a process of continual quality improvement and that we all learn from those who have gone before us and worked to put the profession in a better place. In like fashion, *Optometric Clinical Practice* joins other peer reviewed journals in carrying the torch of evidence based information to pass to the next generation.